

The Neighborhood News

By

Patty L. Fletcher

Editor: Claire Plaisted

June and July Double Edition

Many wonderful specials inside!

Special Feature

Poem

Sharon Tewksbury

I've never seen snowflakes or sleet,

I've never seen a baby sleep,

I've never seen a sky of blue,

Or saw a rose kissed by the dew.

But I've heard the robin's song so gay,

I've heard a baby laugh at play,

I've touched a rose I've smelled the dew,

I've touched soft grass, smelled spring rain too.

I've never seen the clouds of white,

Nor saw the moon or starry light,

But I've sat in autumn's sacred night,

And heard the geese in chevron flight.

I've never seen an eagle soar,
But I've stood and heard the ocean's roar,
I've felt its trade winds on my face,
Tasted its salt, and felt its sprays.
I've never seen a morning dawn,
Or the colors of a sunset gone,
But I've felt the sun, heard dawn birds sing,
Heard evening crickets in early spring,
My friends, I've lived just like a queen,
Even though I have never seen.

Becky Frankeberger

Table of Contents

1. [Greetings from Patty, and all the Campbell Kingdom](#)
2. [Treat of the Month](#)
3. [Neighborhood News](#)
4. [Literary Submission by: Sam Hogle](#)
5. [Link of the Month and In the Hood with Tips, Tricks, and More Featuring Food Lady from the
Blind Post](#)
6. [Products and Services](#)
7. [Administrative Details](#)
8. [Author's Corner](#)
9. [The Twilight Bark](#)
10. [Wrap Up and Editor's Notes](#)

1. Greetings! From Patty, and All the Campbell Kingdom

Hello! We're Back! Sorry we have been away so long. We have had a ton of technical trials, but we for sure want to welcome you back to another Fun and Informative edition of The Neighborhood News! We're so glad you've returned, and if this is your first month joining us, welcome to you.

This edition is packed full of interesting articles, announcements, ads, and much much more.

There is something here for everyone. We have literary submissions, book ads, and reviews!

We have coffee, snacks, and treats galore.

We have advertisements for fun, and games, just anything you can think of is in here today! So sit back, relax, and maybe enjoy your favorite summer drink, and make sure after reading, to write and let us know what you think.

There are some wonderful gift ideas in the Products and Services section so make sure to take a look.

I've no doubt you'll be able to find the perfect gift to honor that special person in your life, treat a friend to a 'just because you're special gift' or yourself.

We are also still on the lookout for more literary, links of the month, and treat of the month submissions. So please make sure to send those along. All submission details can be found in the Administrative Details section.

For now, we hope you enjoy this edition of The Neighborhood News, and that you will drop us a note to let us know how we're doing. Even if there are things about our magazine that truly make you growl and howl, let us know. We'll do our best to fix them.

As always make sure you let us know whether you want all to be told in the Twilight Bark or if you'd like it to remain between you, me, and the Dog House.

Make sure to read the Author's Corner and the Twilight Bark to see comments, and other interesting tidbits from neighbors and friends.

Before we get to the news I have a sad bit of news to pass along to you. While we were away solving our technical difficulties, we occurred a loss. Bob Cat left us for the Rainbow Bridge on June 8 2016 around 3:15 P M. Unknown to me he had a tumor in his abdominal cavity, and it suddenly and with no prior warning burst. I knew immediately that something was terribly wrong with my kitty, and rushed him to the vet, but there was simply nothing that could be done, and so I had them assist him to the Rainbow Bridge. I want to let you know that he went purring peacefully in my arms. You will find the URL to his tribute below.

<https://campbellsworld.wordpress.com/2016/06/24/in-loving-memory-of-bobcat/>

And Now... The Neighborhood News!

*** Special Note*** The News is a bit longer this month due to its being a double edition.

2. Treat of the Month

Penny Fleckenstein [goodthaimom@gmail.com]

Dear Patty,

Hope all is well and that you will enjoy this post. For my previous post, please visit <http://notyourveragesinglemom.com>

I think you will like it. It is called The Parent Lottery. I believe you may find a blessing in it. It contains links, so I didn't want to send it to you without the links.

However, please also enjoy this one.

Love,

Penny

Happy Memorial Day, Everyone. I hope your celebration is filled with good times, friend and family.

It is common to hear about people visiting grave sites and remembering the dead on Memorial Day weekend. I never grew up doing that, so I'm going to start my own tradition. I'm going to remember someone who used to be in my life but is now only in my memory. Today, I dedicate this blog post to my dear friend Yvette Cochran.

I met Yvette in fifth grade late in the school year. I was new to San Francisco and to Lawton Elementary. She was new to the school and to my class. When our teacher introduced her to the class, he told us to make her feel welcome. So when she approached my desk and started asking me questions about my braillewriter, I decided I would take the time to get to know her. Yvette became one of my best and treasured friends.

I received free tickets to go to the Cow Palace for a circus for being secretary of the student council. I could only choose one friend to go with me. I chose Yvette. I hated leaving her when I moved to Thailand about a year and a half later.

I spent nights at her foster home. When I came back from Thailand and spent some time in San Francisco, I stayed at her house. I loved her foster sister Nina and Nina's friend Desir'ee. Her foster mother, Lois Alexander, got me free tickets to the game with a visit to the dugout where I met all the San Francisco Giants players. That day, I got to meet my hero, pitcher Bob Keeper,

who gave me his glove and told me never to lose it. Happy Birthday, Bob Keeper. When I came back to San Francisco in the summer of 1982, I made it a point to look for Yvette. She had been placed in a different foster home. I treated her to Great America an amusement park in Santa Clara. We got home very late on the train having missed a train. It was after 1 A.M. when we got back to San Francisco. We were picked up by her foster parents. I don't think they were very happy with me.

I haven't seen or heard from Yvette since her foster parents dropped me off at my friend's house where I was staying. I don't know what became of Yvette. I have fond and sweet memories of her and have made attempts to find her. I've prayed for her over the years and have made phone calls to strangers with her name. I've since changed my name, and quite possibly, she may have changed hers. My love for her has not changed. This Memorial Day I dedicate to her and celebrate her life. If you know of her please direct her to this post. She's a friend I'll never forget. She never felt uncomfortable about my blindness, was always willing to help, and had a great spirit. My regrets are that I forgot her phone number and that I didn't do more to help her when she was in need. I am sorry for that and wished I had been a better friend.

Please help me find Yvette Cochran. She was born in early October, either the 3rd, 5th, or 7th. I remember the 5th, but I could be wrong. I believe she was a year younger than me. She is white.

**** Penny, thanks so much for this bittersweet tale of friendship. I am very hopeful that the further publishing of this beautiful writing here in The Neighborhood News will help in finding your friend and reuniting the two of you. I hope that either A) she's reading herself and gets into contact with you, or B) someone reading knows of her, and forwards your information onward. Blessings to you, and this sweet tribute.*

I know all too well the pain of loss. Although different circumstances, loss is, after all, loss.

3. Neighborhood News

Recap...

Hi, just a quick reminder, we have books at both, Dillys Curiosity Shop at 1121 N Eastman RD and out at I Love Books in the Kingsport Town Center, better known as the Fort Henry Mall. Please make sure to visit them in person, or online soon. For Dillys Curiosity visit <http://dillyscuriosityshop/> And for I Love Books see <http://KingsportBookstore.com>

Hey! All! You! Facebook Fans??

Looking for a group to join? Like dogs? Need a place to talk about what you're doing, to vent your frustrations, or just say hey to a friend, for no other reason than to have someone say hey in return? Campbell's Corner: the Comfort Zone is the place for you! We laugh, cry, and love with you!

We are always happy to accept new members, and having a dog is not a requirement. It is just something lots of us have in common.

Dogs not your deal, but you still want a fun filled place to come and chat if for no other reason than to just say hi? Need a place to share a special happening in your life? Want to share a sorrow, or vent a frustration? We at Patty and Pals would like to invite you to join. We have lots of fun so give us a try today.

Although Bob Cat has gone, his group Bob Cat and Friends is still up and alive. I'd thought about getting rid of it, and well, first off I cannot figure out how to get rid of any group on Facebook, and secondly, I still love cats, and want to provide a place for people who have them to gather and talk of them, so how about it cat lovers? Want to join?

Go to Facebook and search in groups for Bob Cat and Friends. Let us keep it alive in his honor. He would have thought that was a PURRFECTLY awesome idea!

If that is not enough social media to satisfy you, then how about Twitter? Not on a lot, but we're there. Check us out at: @Bubbalee04 today!

What's New...?

Campbell and I are on Summer break from volunteering with the Kingsport city school systems. We had as you know been volunteering for both Andrew Johnson Elementary and Lincoln Elementary. Now that school is out, we are on the lookout for things to do. If you're reading now, and think we could help you, or someone you know in some way with our 'Stop and Read On Campbell's Corner' program, be sure to drop us a line.

On a more positive note, we're very happy to report that we're attending more events with the Friendship Connection Mental Health Drop-In center. Just a week or so ago we attended a picnic in Mountain City with another Drop-In center, and enjoyed it very much.

First off the trip from Kingsport to Mountain City took about two hours. We were picked up round eight in the morning. Once there we settled ourselves in at a picnic table, and began to get to know folks around us. Soon we were involved in a lively chat with a young girl named Sabrina, and we became fast friends. I was able to share myself with her and she with me. She learned that being blind was not such of a much once you got the hang of it, and I learned that getting to know new people in a strange place wasn't too bad either.

A week or so later we attended another lunch, this time we went all the way to Sneedville Tennessee. It was a great time. We played Bingo, did Pictionary, which my friends found a way for me to play, and had a great time getting to see yet another drop-in center, and find out how they did things in their neck of the woods.

Look for all kinds of stories about this and other Friendship Connection events on our blog at campbellsworld.wordpress.com

The newest and most exciting news! On July 6 2016 Campbell's Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life was added to the BARD.LOC.gov website provided by the National Library For the Blind and Physically Handicap, and on July 9 it had hit the most popular downloads list.

This is to me the most exciting thing to have ever happened, and I am proud and very honored to be able to make this announcement to you. I hope that you will visit the site, and download it today, and if you are not a site user, then by all means call your library and request a copy be sent to you. Be sure and let us know what you think when you're done.

Another awesome thing that has happened here this summer is that King Campbell AKA Bubba has decided I need not be the only author in the family, and so it is with great pride I tell you of...

Bubba Tails From the Puppy Nursery At The Seeing Eye

Written by Patty L. Fletcher. Told by, King Campbell Lee The Seeing Eye Dog AKA Bubba
Spring and summer 2016

In this magical and love filled tail, King Campbell AKA Bubba travels to the puppy nursery at The Seeing Eye to help ready a group of puppies who are just about to embark on the fabulous journey of learning to become Seeing Eye dogs. Just as he is about to finish his tail, a wee pup becomes very frightened of all that lies ahead, and one frightfully stormy night she runs away! Will King Campbell hear the urgent call from the puppy nursery in time? Will they find her and save her so she can fulfil her destiny? Find out by signing up to <http://campbellsworld.wordpress.com/>

Coming Soon... In July the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kingsport will be exploring the Pennies For Puppies and Dollars For Dogs program with The Seeing Eye. For more info visit <http://TheSeeingEye.org>

When last I spoke with their coordinator the plan was that they would have a field trip to Baize Mountain State Park, and during that event the challenge would be presented. I am hopeful to attend that day and be a part of that.

I think having Campbell present would make a greater impact on both children and staff

Another thing happening in The Campbell Kingdom is that Campbell and I are going to pursue having him licensed as a Therapy Dog. We believe that King Campbell AKA Bubba has a real knack for it, and we have found an organization willing to let us give it a try. Pet Partners has decided to see if Campbell has what it takes to truly join this world of providing comfort to others. I believe very strongly he does. Watch for updates coming soon.

If you have things going on that you'd like to have in our news, drop us a line. We're always happy to hear from you.

***** Because this is a Double Edition, I have an extra Treat. Take it away Tasha**

Treat of the Month Times Two!

Heartwings Love Notes 732: Keeping the Peace

Heartwings says, "When there is nothing we can do to change the big things, work on the small ones."

As Stephen started to tell me about the latest strife ridden news on the internet I stopped him. "If there's nothing I can do about it, I don't want to hear or to think about it," I told him. I didn't need

yet another piece of news about the disruptions, the discordance and the dismay that seems to be proliferating in every corner of our country. People are upset, and rightly so, yet if there is nothing I personally can do, I don't want to get tangled up in the current news about it.

In the turmoil ridden world of today peace is elusive. While I think of myself as one who seeks to make peace, I am not one to march in protest. In seeking peace I try not to involve my thoughts in the discord that the media promotes on a daily basis. Little time there seems given to progress toward a better world for us all and much too sad and troublesome events. I do not need to hide from what goes on, yet I do not need to focus on it either.

Protesting is good for those who want to march; I wish them well. My energy needs to go toward efforts to cheer and comfort those I can reach with my writing or my voice. Thunderstorms rattle the atmosphere; lightening discharges energy; when the noise subsides, it is time to go out into the garden to remove the weeds and to tend the flowers. Although I no longer have a garden in fact, I still consider myself to be a gardener.

I have come to see my life as a kind of garden. Where there are weeds--wild growth that has accumulated around my intended purposes--I need to pull them out and discard them. Where there is a need for watering I need to put myself in a place to nurture what needs nurturing. I do what is possible for me to do in the face of the disruption around me, making beauty to comfort the eye and heart, and encouraging what is good and helpful. I can do this only when there is peace in my own heart, and I maintain that peace as best I can.

May you find your own ways to peace as best you can!

Blessings and best regards, Tasha Halpert

*I love to hear from readers. When you have comments or questions, please let me know. It is a treat to hear any feedback, and I am always happy to respond. To purchase an autographed copy of my book, *Heartwings: Love Notes for a Joyous Life*, please write me at P.O. Box 171, North Grafton, MA 01536, with a check for \$17 to include postage and handling and your desired dedication. Or you can also order copies on Amazon or most probably from Barnes and Noble.*

Blessings and best regards, Tasha Halpert

4. Literary Submission.

For those of you who have been with us a while, you will remember Sam Hogle's story *My Entrance To the World of So Called Crazy Cat People* from a year or so back. During the story we saw how Sam and his guide helped to rescue homeless cats. Now Sam is back, and this time the news is both bitter and sweet. Grab a tissue, and get ready to enjoy a beautiful yet sad tale.

Take it away Sam...

“Sam, are you ready to meet your new friend?”

These are the first words I hear from my instructor, Rivi, when she walked in to the common lounge. “It sounds like a heavy breathing friend,” I replied. I got this idea because of the straining and gasping I could hear from the leash she was holding.

“It’s a male golden retriever named Mason.”

That was the statement I would hear that would change my life forever.

This meeting took place on May 25, 2009 at the Seeing Eye in Morristown New Jersey. At this point, an excitable golden retriever came in to my life. I had grown up with animals, but Mason was the first living being that was solely my responsibility. It was a definite give and take relationship. I depended on him to guide me, and he depended on me to feed him, play with him, groom him, and provide him with any loving care he needed. Of course, there were some physical benefits to having Mason in my life. I could navigate more independently, and I was finally receiving the motivation I needed to lead a healthier life style.

There were several lessons I learned from Mason, and they ranged from learning to make compromises and think of others besides myself, learning it was possible to feel safe enough to let down walls I built up from a dysfunctional childhood and love and trust others, and learning to live in the moment instead of focusing so much on the past and the future. I never would have believed that getting my first Seeing Eye dog could change my life so much, which is part of why the big decision I’ve had to make over the past year has been so difficult.

About a year ago, I noticed that Mason was really starting to slow down. He had always been a lazy dog in general, but he had never had trouble keeping up with my daily activities. However, I noticed that part of the way through our typical day, he would seem to lose energy to the point that I would have to encourage him to speed up and I could almost go ahead of him, something that could be dangerous when working with a Seeing Eye Dog.

At first, I tried to ignore the signs since he was healthy and since I knew my area well enough to travel with him even if he was not as sharp as he used to be. Besides, he still got excited at home when I put on my shoes and picked up his harness, so of course he wasn’t ready to retire. Since my instructor told me years ago that I was the only one who would know it was time, this debate went on for a while. In the end, I decided to reapply to the Seeing Eye. I told myself there was no commitment since it would be a year before I could go to class because of my school schedule, and the trainers would probably ask me questions that would make me realize that Mason was fine and didn’t have to retire after all.

I filled out the forms for the Seeing Eye in August of 2015, was told they had been received, and went on with my life without really thinking about it. Although Mason was slowing down, his health was still good and his work was stable, so I didn’t see a need to entertain the idea anymore. However, that changed in early March I decided to check in just to see if the admissions staff knew anything about a possible class date. I was telling myself that I was not excited about the idea of getting a new dog, but I needed to know for planning purposes. Anyway, I got a phone call asking if an instructor could come do a Juno walk with me. I thought this was a great idea since the instructor would be able to see Mason in person and tell me if I was making the right decision. Two things happened that day. First, the instructor saw Mason, stated I was taking great care of him, and pointed out some signs that made it obvious he was aging. Secondly, I did the Juno walk and realized for the first time in over a year how fast I could travel with a dog who was physically able to keep up with me. I realized I would be entering the

working world soon, and I would need such a dog in order for me to be as efficient and independent as possible. So, I realized I needed to go through with Mason's retirement, both so he could lead a happy and comfortable life for the next few years, and so I could pursue my goals after completing my masters degree in May. Up until this point, I had told people that Mason was retiring in the summer, but it didn't feel real until that day.

Shortly thereafter, I was given a class date of May 30th, and I realized I had to decide exactly when and how to retire Mason. I picked May 10th as his official retirement date since that was also the day of my graduation. It just felt right since he had gone through the whole college experience with me, and it was the end of a chapter for both of us. Sure, life would be a little inconvenient having to use a cane for a couple of weeks, but I decided I had to get the process over with, and at least I knew I did not have many places to go between graduation and the start of my training at the Seeing Eye.

Mason loved graduation day. I think he knew it was his last day in the harness. He was wagging his tail and pulling ahead like I hadn't seen him do in a long time. This just confirmed that I was making the right decision for both of us. Mason received a certificate of appreciation from the social work department as well as his own diploma. He definitely earned it.

Mason is now retired and loving life. I have noticed some of his energy seems to be returning now that he is not having to work every day. The only adjustment seems to be his idea that he needs to leave with me when I go out for short errands, but I am told by other handlers that this will get better in time. I plan to send him to my mom's house before I start packing my bags and getting ready to go on my next life changing adventure with my new guide. However, once we are home, he will return home and hopefully teach the new family member some of his good habits. Is this going to be an easy transition for either of us? Probably not. Can we do it? I hope so. I never would have guessed seven years ago that I would be where I am today, and I can't wait to see where life and the Seeing Eye take me in the years to come.

**** Sam, I can in no way relate to this.*

I would like to share that for me, the message of this story is, you aren't quite the same person you were when you and Mason started on your journey together, and he is now different, is older, and simply unable to continue further. So while it is hard to walk from this portion of your life to the next, you're excited about it as well.

I cannot imagine this mix of emotions. Please? Do, write to us again once you're home, and reasonably settled to let us know how you and your two dogs are doing.

Good luck, and Blessings to you!

5. Link of the Month, and In the Hood With Tips, Tricks, and More! Featuring Food Lady from the Blind Post...

**### Tip... Provided by Me, Patty L. Fletcher ☺
SCHEDULE AHEAD!!!**

This time I would like to start with the following tip.

Of late I have had experience with what can happen if one doesn't schedule transportation ahead of time. After trying to have, and failing at a weekend getaway with a friend of mine, I realized that it is not only a good idea to schedule transportation from one city to the other, and hotels, in advance as well, it is also a good idea to schedule the transportation to the point of your transportation point for leaving town ahead of time.

This hit home for me about ten after six early one Friday morning not long ago. I'd been planning a getaway weekend with a friend of mine for about a week, and we thought we had everything in place. We had discussed our plans of getting to the hotel, made hotel reservations, and planned some of our weekend events, but my friend had not scheduled his transportation to the bus station. So on this morning of all mornings, he found that cabs were backed up, and that even Uber had a wait time.

So we learned that everything needs to be more carefully planned.

There seemed to be no way to fix the issue, so we've had no choice but to cancel. I was disappointed, but hope the sharing of this story helps others to realize that planning is a must when traveling.

Recipe...

The June recipe comes from GrannyMoon's Soulful Eating email list. I hope you enjoy!

Rockin' Rosemary Popcorn

Recipe from Crazy Sexy Kitchen

3 tablespoons grape seed oil or peanut oil (higher smoke point than olive oil)
1/2 cup popcorn kernels
2 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons minced rosemary
3 tablespoons nutritional yeast
1/4 teaspoon cayenne
Sea salt, to taste

Place a 5-quart saucepan on medium heat. Add organic grape-seed or peanut oil.

Add a few popcorn kernels to the hot oil and cover the pan with a lid. Once the kernels pop, remove saucepan from heat.

Add all kernels, distributing them evenly on the bottom of the pan. Cover and count to 20. (This step is important! By removing saucepan from the heat and shaking it back and forth, all the kernels will be coated with oil and brought to the same temperature. Only then can your kernels pop at the same time when placed back on the heat.)

Then place saucepan back on the heat, and shake the pan while still on the burner. The popcorn will slowly begin to pop. Once the kernels begin popping, crack the lid slightly to let out a small amount of steam.

Continue shaking the pan over the burner until you no longer hear popping.

Remove from heat immediately and pour all popcorn into a large bowl.

In a small saucepan on medium heat, heat up the olive oil and add the minced rosemary. Stir for a minute, until the rosemary becomes crisp. (Cooking the rosemary releases its flavor into the oil.)

Pour rosemary oil over popcorn slowly, while tossing the mixture.

Sprinkle nutritional yeast, cayenne, and sea salt over all popcorn; cover bowl and shake, or stir thoroughly. Serve immediately.

Goddess Blessings!

GrannyMoon

<https://about.me/granny.moon>

July's Recipes From Lori AKA Food Lady from the Blind Post <http://theblindpost.com>

This month I bring you tips and recipes submitted by readers. I hope you will enjoy them, and please email me with any questions you have on cooking or home management. Also, I love getting new recipes!

Send them to: foodlady@theblindpost.com.

Please? When you send them, specify they are from The Neighborhood News. Thanks.

Cooking pasta or noodles

I read this trick in a book and tried it tonight. It worked.

Instead of boiling the pasta or noodles until they're done and having the burner on the whole time, bring the water to a boil, pour in the pasta or noodles, bring it to a boil again (which only took me about a minute), then cover and turn the heat off. Then let it sit for 20 minutes, stirring once or twice while it sits.

I boiled some macaroni in the broth from a crockpotted roast, plus some water to make enough liquid. I used a box of mac and cheese. When the mac was cooked, I added some of the leftover roast and the powdered cheese packet. It was pretty good.

This means the burner is on much less time, saving on electric or gas and the heating up of the house. It's also easier, because you don't have to watch it so you don't overcook it. You can spend the 20 minutes of sitting time doing something else.

Go make something tasty!

Marilyn H

Crock-Pot - Slow Cooker: Beefy Tortellini

One half pound ground beef or turkey

One jar (24 to 26 ounces) roasted tomato and garlic pasta sauce.

One half cup water

Eight ounces sliced button or exotic mushrooms, such as oyster, shiitake and cremini.

One half teaspoon red pepper flakes, optional.

One package (12 ounces) uncooked three-cheese tortellini.

Three fourths cup grated Asiago or Romano cheese.

Chopped fresh parsley, optional.

Brown beef 6 to 8 minutes in large skillet over medium-high heat, stirring to break up meat. Drain fat. Coat inside of Crock-Pot with nonstick cooking spray. Stir pasta sauce and water into Crock-Pot. Add mushrooms; stir to combine. Stir in meat, red pepper flakes, if desired, and tortellini. Cover; cook on low 2 hours, or on high 1 hour. Stir. Cover; cook on low 2 to 2 1/2 hours, or on high 30 minutes to 1 hour, or until pasta is tender. Serve in shallow bowls topped with cheese and parsley. Makes 6 servings.

From Wayne S.

Four cups cooked potatoes

One half cup chopped celery

Two hard cooked eggs, chopped

One fourth cup green onions, sliced

One teaspoon salt

One eighth teaspoon pepper

One cup Miracle Whip

One teaspoon prepared mustard
One fourth teaspoon celery seed
One teaspoon horseradish
dash of green Tabasco or red pepper (optional)
One tablespoon cider vinegar

Simmer potatoes until fork tender. Remove skins, and cut into cubes. In a bowl, combine celery, eggs, potatoes, onions, vinegar and seasonings. Toss lightly to combine.

In a separate small bowl, mix mustard, and salad dressing. Stir into potatoes.

Refrigerate before serving.

From anonymous

Enjoy,
Food Lady

**** Thanks Food Lady. That was awesome! Now that we've prepared and eaten all this most delicious food, we need to get moving. Best way to do this? Dance, slow fast or in between makes no difference. Motion is the trick, so with no further ado, I introduce this month's newest item in The Neighborhood provided by Mike Tate*

Welcome to Mike's "musical memories."

This song became a favorite of mine when I was working my first guide dog. She was a wonderful high spirited yellow lab named Freda. Although that was 27 and a half years ago, there are certainly still quite a few incredible memories which bring many warm smiles to my heart and face. Here's hoping you enjoy this one.

Helen Ready

You And Me Against The World
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQ9j3dhZ6ys>

**** Thanks Mike for making this 'moving memory possible. Make sure to come back next month with another most awesome memory for us to enjoy.*

Link of the Month...

We here at The Neighborhood News, did not receive a contribution for the Link of the Month this month to share, so I am going to provide this, and hope you will take a look.
<http://VISTA.gov>

If you're a teen looking for summer work that could even lead to some college funding, or money in your pocket, as well as a ton of great experience, a just out of college or middle aged

person looking for some great work that will make you feel great at the end of the day, or a senior with too much time on your hands there's something here for you. Make sure to check them out today.

I served one year with them, and it led to some really wonderful experiences that I now know I never could've done without and be where I am today.

Book Review...

While we all like to be active, get out and about, and enjoy this summer weather, sometimes we just need or want to settle back with a tall cool drink, a snack, and a book. This month I am reviewing myself.

*** This review was also posted on the Digital Book Review Email List and is reproduced here with permission from the moderators Nolan Crab and Don Horn.

First NLS then part of a previous review from another place, and then my added thoughts. Now Available for Download <http://www.BARD.LOC.gov>

Campbell's Rambles: how a seeing eye dog retrieved my life DB83921

Fletcher, Patty L. Reading time: 6 hours, 16 minutes.
Read by Suzanne Toren.

Disability

A woman recounts her experiences working with a guide dog after using a cane for thirty-one years. Describes the training process, finding a connection with her dog, and the impact on her life after returning home from training. Discusses the effect of her increased independence on personal relationships.

2014

Download Campbell's rambles: how a seeing eye dog retrieved my life

My Thoughts

It has been said by some that my reviews have moved them to read things that they'd not normally have read, and so I'm going to review my own book. Not as the author but as the reader, who experienced what they're reading.

This way you can experience all these horrible wonderful awesome frightening things for yourselves.

There are 26 chapters in all so this is an easy read.

First off the book is not just "*Another Guide Dog Book.*" It is much much more. It speaks of the trials that someone who is not only blind but mentally ill with Bipolar Disorder. It goes through on a daily bases when experiencing something as stressful as going through this type of training.

Let's face it folks it's not fun and games all the time. Yes I had lots of fun, Chapter 8 is one of my favorite chapters. Why? Because I got to experience a mall in a whole new way, but before I talk to you about all that let me talk to you about Chapter 3. Dog Day the Most Wonderful Day Ever!

On Monday April 4 2011 my life changed for absolutely ever without doubt. When Drew Gibbon Senior Instructor of The Seeing Eye walked in to my dorm room with Campbell walking proudly by his side, introduced him to me and placed that leash in my hand it was a life changing moment from which there will never be a road back.

As I began to explore Campbell's body and get to know this magnificent beast that now walks proudly by my side, I knew right away that things for me would never ever again be as they were before that day, and I was right they haven't.

Then there was Chapter 4 The Connection and That First Walk.

Taking that first walk with Campbell was the most horrible awful wonderful awesome frightening experience I ever had in my life. I was disoriented, off balance terrified and totally thrilled all at the same moment, and as I am writing this I am taken back in time to that day as Campbell and I took our first baby steps together. Yes, ladies and gentlemen that was about what it was like, a child learning to walk. At first I simply couldn't get in to the rhythm of walking with Campbell at all. I don't know if it was because of the way it felt being led by something with four legs and his walking felt different, if it was because I was just scared silly, or what exactly the trouble was but for a few minutes my feet just did not seem to be at all connected to my body. Then as I began to get the hang of it felt like flying, it felt free, and I began to realize life in a whole new way.

Then there was Chapter 5 Hell Week. Let me tell you folks, that was not an over statement by a long shot. We handlers experienced things that week that there have not yet been words written to describe.

When you read the portion of that chapter where I took the fall that just about sent me home you will feel just exactly what I felt that day. I was exhausted hurting in places I did not even know belonged in a human body and simply about done, but because of one thing that Drew Gibbon said to me I found the courage to go on, and thank the Goddess I did.

Then there's Chapter 6 Learning the Hard Way. (Slight Spoiler!)

Well, folks, what can I say? I learned the hard way. Drinking and training well, sometimes they just don't mix. Somehow I got through it but if you're fortunate enough to get Drew Gibbon as an instructor and you manage to get drunk and wake up with a hangover from hell the next day, do not expect any sympathy from him, because his give a damn will be busted for sure.

Finally there's chapter 7. In this chapter begins one of the other important lessons to be learned in the book, and that is the importance of boundaries, by staff and students alike. You absolutely one-hundred percent have to remember at all times before, during, and after your time at the school, or in any setting such as what I describe in my book that boundaries must be set from the onset and not after. Making rules late in the game only serves to break hearts. Believe me. I know.

Hi, back with part two of this review. When I left off we were discussing Chapter 7 and the need for boundaries. As I went back and continued to read, I totally enjoyed reading about our trip to the mall, and how I experienced the mall in a whole new way, and it dawned on me how that experience written of in Chapter 8 had readied me for things that have come to be in my life. For example, I now occasionally keep time with a man who likes to go walking in the mall, and

so the lessons I learned while walking through that mall on that long ago April day have truly come in handy, but as I read I also remembered the first time I worked my Campbell with my nephew Aaron after our not having seen one another for so long. When Aaron last saw me before that day, I was a cane traveler, and would've never walked alongside him in a mall. Whenever he and I went out anywhere together I always took his arm and he was my guide, but that day he just came scooped me and Campbell up and off we went, to the mall, visiting friends, and having a great day. All because of the very things written in this book.

Some are going to say after reading this, "So is this a review, or another journal post?" Well, folks there's no way for me to review as simply a reader, I wrote the book. The experiences I write of in it have shaped and reshaped my life so many times I can't begin to possibly describe it and do it any sort of justice.

Let us talk about Chapter 10 New York. First off, who would've ever thought that I would've ever found myself in New York? I certainly didn't think something like that could ever happen to me. Tonight as I read that chapter I could hear the sounds of the city, smell the smells of the food, the cars, the people, and all. I could feel the energy I wrote of, that thrum ever present just beneath the surface. I remember standing on the street corner getting ready to cross and being amazed at the amount of people standing around us, and as I read I was there. Right there in New York. Do I think that you could have that experience when reading my book? Yes, absolutely. Have you ever been on a subway train? If so you'll know the whoosh of air I speak of as the train pulls in to the station and stops at the platform to let folks off and on.

If you have ever heard the sounds of the traffic you'll understand what I say when I describe the difference in the traffic there than anything we here in my neck of the woods ever experience. Do you need to have ever gone to New York and heard that sound to experience the feeling of it when you read my book? No. If you can read that and not feel at least part of what I felt when I experienced that, then I want to know it, because this means I didn't do my job as an author.

How about the chapters toward the end of the book? The ones that discuss the secrets I was trying to hide from everyone? Do you need to have experienced this to feel the hurt, embarrassment and fear? No, it is there, written and real and raw.

When I wrote of my dad and his near miss with death, the fear was in those pages, and the relief as well when he was there after his procedure.

If you can read my book, and have no reaction please? I want you to write me. I want hell! I need to know, but it is my belief that if you give this book a chance you will come away with a truly awesome understanding of absolutely everything I experienced.

I want to close with this.

When I wrote this book, it was my wish to write it so I could raise awareness of blindness, guide dogs, and multiple disabilities. It was and still is my mission to do so. It was and is still my mission to use the sales of this book for the good of The Seeing Eye, and to be able to go back to making monthly donations to them would be wonderful. So Please? Read, and Enjoy this book, if you're reading via BARD or Other digital source Order one for a friend in print.

The info is all there on my website. If you've read the book via Book Share and would like to help The Seeing Eye, you can donate to them directly, and you can donate in Campbell's name.

Most of all I want to hear from readers. I want to know your feelings.

I am asked often what the folks at The Seeing Eye think of my book. Well guys I can't tell you. I've gotten little response from anyone, and I suppose I understand that. There are lots of books written by many graduates out there, and I'm quite sure some better than mine.

Am I bothered a bit by it? I'd be lying if I said no, but that is ok.

If my book helps one person, does one good thing, encourages someone to take that leap of faith and go to The Seeing Eye and get a dog, then my work is done.

If a great donation is made to The Seeing Eye and helps them to continue to help others, then my work is done. If you have read it and you came away having a better understanding of folks who are mentally ill, or are at the very least willing to learn and grow with it, my work is done.

If one person leaves an abuser and renews their own lease on life, then my work is done. I used to think I'd lost all the hard work I did by my bad behavior, but that is not correct, it was only delayed, or? Was it? Everything happens in Goddess's time, not mine, and so there-for it is quite possible when all that was happening to delay my intended work, it was happening just as it was meant to, and that now is the time for it to bloom.

It is my deepest wish that with the rereading of this book, this review, and some prayer from me that things gone amiss can be set straight. Until then Campbell and I have accomplished what was expected of us. We're a fine dog and human team and I couldn't be more pleased.

As I reread this book I was transported back there to that very time. I laughed, I cried, and I even got angry all over. It literally transformed me right back to that place I'd gone before.

It also opened my heart to some reality checks. I made a promise in Chapter 26 "On Campbell's Honor." Since that time for various reasons, some of which I couldn't help, I have broken that promise, and it hurt me when I read that. I also realized something else when rereading this book, we surely do attract just what we think, fear, and believe. I feared I'd never see Drew again, even though he talked of hoping to be able to come back on vacation in the area with his wife, and now, that is not to be. I feared my relationship with Donnie would only grow more dangerous, and it did, and I feared I'd not own my beloved home, and I don't. I do still live in it, and you know what? I'm still alive, and my awesome guide is by my side, and so here I am after all doing just what I set out to do in the beginning. Being a Guide Dog handler.

Reading the book via BARD and hearing it read by a human was a true joy. The narrator they chose did a fabulous job. Her voice was just absolutely perfect for it. She knew just the correct way to do the voices, and I almost rolled out of the bed every time I heard her read Drew's Character I laughed so hard. Campbell at one point reacted to a command, she read so well, and I just truly was able to gain a whole new prospective. A fellow writer explained it to me this way when I expressed the wonder of it to him. He said, "It is because you read audio books so much, and you relate to them. So when you read this way you are transformed to the book, into it and the memory of it." He was right, and I feel I'll be able to now do a better job of writing my second book.

I truly do want and desire all your feedback.

To you who use a cane. I did not leave you out, and in fact in the epilogue I spoke to you directly. I paid attention. I remember the days of being a cane traveler and feeling like some authors who wrote of their guides were saying my chosen form of mobility tools was wrong. Just want you to

know I believe that is the furthest thing from the truth ever, and like I say this book deals with so many other things, well? There's something for all here.

If you would like to know the opinion of Mr. Gibbon and others at the school, or have any questions for them, I have been advised that you should write to: info@seeingeeye.org and address your email to the person in question, and that it will be passed along. I simply cannot speak for another.

Thanks so very much for reading, and blessid be.

To buy my book, see my blog, back issues of The Neighborhood News, and guest blogger articles as well go to <http://campbellsworld.wordpress.com/>

And now, here are some other things going on in the Hood this month. Remember, drop us a line about your announcement or event. We're happy to publish you for free here if you're a nonprofit.

**** Note... Due to computer issues, some of the normally copied announcements aren't available to me. So I am simply going to put short blurbs and contact info that I have available in my notes. I apologize and will make it up to all those who have sent in submissions next month.*

Announcements

** The GDUI election has taken place, and you can visit <http://GDUI.org> for more information.

If you're local, or planning to visit the Tricities area in July, Fun Fest will be coming soon, and is the most fun around. Folks come from everywhere for events like Taste of the Tricities, the fabulous concert series, and of course let us not forget the Saturday Night concert, and the fireworks after...

To learn more visit <http://EngageKingsport.com>

Dear GDUI Members and Friends,

Please share the information below with all of the guide dog users you know! Thank you for sharing widely and for completing the survey.

Sincerely,

Penny

Penny Reeder, President
Guide Dog Users, Inc.

Are you a guide dog user? Have you been refused a ride by a taxi driver or other vehicle-for-hire companies? If so, GDUI needs your help!

Guide Dog Users, Inc. has partnered with the American Council of the Blind and the Council of U.S. Dog Guide Schools (CUSDGS) to develop a survey that will collect data from guide dog users around the country on this important transportation and civil rights issue. Results will be shared with the courts, legislators, the U.S. Department of Justice, the media and interested respondents to this survey.

We encourage all U.S. guide dog users to complete the survey. The more information we can gather, the more reliable our data will be, which will allow us to present the most complete and accurate picture of the current state of affairs to relevant agencies, companies and organizations.

To complete the survey, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PBSRP89>

**** Hi, Patty back again... I don't usually have much else after the announcements, but today, I have the "And More..."*

Below is something I got from one of my many email lists, and I'd like to share it with you. I feel spirit led to do so, and hope it helps some reader. If ever I can do anything for you, please do not ever hesitate to ask. I hope you enjoy this, and would love to hear from you if you've any comment good or bad.

And More...

Accept Your Humanness!



We all need affection, support, encouragement, food, clothing, shelter. When our needs are being met, we feel safe enough to express our feelings. But when our needs aren't met, or we deny our needs, we don't feel safe enough to express our feelings. We shut down.

To grow, we must begin to accept our humanness. The more we own up to who we are--with humility and acceptance--the stronger we become. Each time we ask for what we need, we sink our roots deeper and wider. Every time we express our feelings, honestly and directly, we grow in love.

To grow spiritually, we need to be rooted in our humanness. Like the branches of a tree, our spirit seeks the light and feeds our roots, our humanness. Our roots send up nourishment and strength and feed our spirit.

I imagine that I am a tree. Down through the base of the spine I send my roots deep and wide into the earth. I send my branches to the sky. I am a growing, breathing, vital, spiritual human being.

Have a wonderful day!

From Miguel-Angel Carmen de Santiago-León

FYI!!!**!!** The Seeing Eye has information out now about their upcoming Gran Fondo and it can be found along with all their other awesome information at <http://TheSeeingEye.org>

6. Products and Services

*** As I wrote in to the Blind Post, and on my Facebook page, Campbell's Rambles anyone who was to have had an ad of any kind in this month, who doesn't see it here, will have it posted next month, and also have use of an extra onetime free ad.

*****Sponsored Ad of the Month*****

Bizviz Network

If you are looking to promote your products, services, no matter if it is training, a book, a website or a blog, new or used items, a podcast or an app, feel free to register as a user at the Bizviz Network.

One part of the site is a blog with regular posts on relevant information, including the VIP Blog Log, which is a growing list of blind bloggers, as well as recommended resources, assistive technology and helpful information for the community in general.

The other part of the site is a free classifieds section with many different categories, where users may browse through, or place and manage their own free business or personal classified ads.

To subscribe as a user go to <http://bizviznet.com> and click on the menu and widgets button at the top of the page to find all the site has to offer.

You may also subscribe by simply sending an e-mail to info@bizviznet.com with "subscribe" in the subject line and your name and e-mail address in the body of the message.

*****Sponsored Ad of the Month*****

Word Matters! – A Glimpse of the World

Word Matters! is a blog that combines journalism and news gathering with thoughts and opinions as well as informative and entertaining shorts. Edited by Ernest Dempsey, it is the site that inspires, entertains, sometimes shocks, and of course informs people on current issues as well as past glory or misadventures.

Visit www.ernestdempsey.com to read and maybe share your opinion or thoughts, or suggest what topics you want to see on the site.

Unemployed and actively seeking work? Underemployed and searching for a job that makes better use of your skills? Entering the workforce for the first time?

Having a job promotes dignity, helps with a sense of purpose, and hopefully brings in some money to buy the things we want. For many blind people, finding a job can still be a long, frustrating journey that can drain the self-belief of even the most positive person. If you're looking for a blindness-specific guide, written by a successful blind professional who has helped many others realize their dreams, Bonnie Mosen's book, "*It's Off To Work We Go*", contains practical advice, examples and anecdotes, all from a blindness perspective, drawn from her years of experience as a successful vocational rehabilitation counselor. From improving your chances of landing an interview to the all-important question of when, if ever, to disclose your blindness, it's all covered. It's written in a chatty, easily readable style, with many real-world examples of strategies that work and strategies that don't.

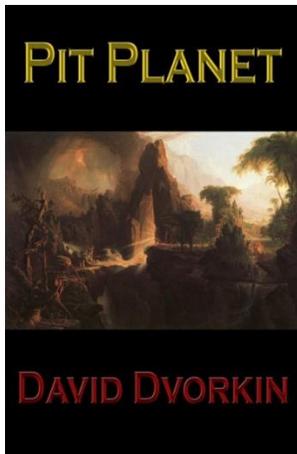
To purchase the book or for more information, visit mosen.org/work. Bonnie Mosen can be contacted at bonnie@mosen.org.

PIT PLANET

A science fiction novel by David Dvorkin, C 2010

In paperback and e-book formats from Amazon.com and multiple other online selling sites. Occasionally, James Benton is surprised at the role the mineral jacksonite has played in his life. His rootless childhood, his parents' disappearance in interstellar space, his lack of any emotional attachment since then—none of this would have happened without the influence of jacksonite. He's not alone: jacksonite has had an immense influence on everyone in the galaxy.

Now jacksonite has brought Benton to Colliery, the only world where the mineral is found. Colliery is a beautiful planet, a veritable Garden of Eden. But here Benton will be forced to delve below his own surface, to search within, as he penetrates below the serene and lovely surface of Colliery. In knowing and liberating a world, Benton will finally know and liberate himself.



Review quote: "A headlong trip over, under, and through worlds of greed, sex, politics, intrigue, and adventure, of miners and mindpickers, cavesnakes and triple-crossers. An absorbing mix of hard science and action SF, with the unmistakable Dvorkin touch."—Connie Willis

Full details, additional review quotes, text preview, and buying links: <http://www.dvorkin.com/pitplan/index.htm>

ABOUT BOB BRANCO

Website plus contact information: <http://www.dvorkin.com/robertbranco/>
Robert T. Branco is the author of three books:

As I See It: From a Blind Man's Perspective (C 2013)

My Home Away from Home: Life at Perkins School for the Blind (C 2013)

Weighing Things Up: Essays on Trends, Technology, and Present-Day Society (C 2014)

All three books are available in e-book and print formats on Amazon.com and several other online buying sites. Full details about the books, plus text previews, are on Bob's website, listed above. He also compiled a cookbook, *What We Love to Eat*. All the recipes were submitted by blind contributors.

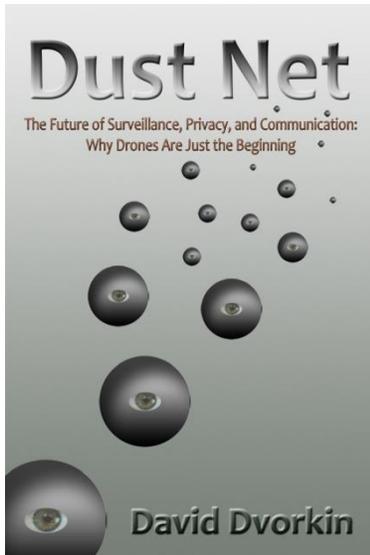
Bob is also the publisher of a monthly online newsletter, *The Consumer Vision*. A typical issue would print out to about 30 pages. He has several regular contributors, but is always looking for new ones. He accepts essays, short stories, poems, ads, and much more. Contact him for more information.

Bob also hosts a weekly telephone conference program, *Branco Broadcast*, which began in 2014. His guests, many of whom are blind, most often speak about their jobs or their books. Contact him to learn about how the program works and how to become a guest.

DUST NET – The Future of Surveillance, Privacy, and Communication:

Why Drones Are Just the Beginning by David Dvorkin, C 2013

This is a work of nonfiction plus some speculation. It's largely about drones and their very rapid miniaturization, their present and coming use in law enforcement and war, and a potential future



in which spy and communication equipment will literally be the size of dust motes, almost impossible to see and impossible to escape. It's also about the complete lack of privacy that is coming in the future.

Parts of the book are encouraging, detailing how such devices will help rescue people after disasters, help people escape the control of repressive governments, and simply communicate more easily with one another. But most of the book is chilling, portraying a future that will be very, very different from our past.

What's really important is that this is *not* a work of science fiction. Many of the devices described here either exist already or are in the development stage. No matter where you fall on the political spectrum, you need to read this book, because to know the future is to help yourself prepare for it.

Full details and book preview: <http://www.dvorkin.com/dn/index.html>

Calling all Coffee Lovers

Are you a coffee lover? Do you enjoy delicious food? If so, I have just what you are looking for! I am an Independent Kat's Coffees Representative, and I carry a large variety of coffees, teas, dessert mixes, bread mixes, and so much more. All products are made to order. So, there is no wondering how long a product has been sitting on a shelf before you order. See all the high quality and delicious coffees and other edibles at www.katscoffees.com/ourproducts.html

I can be contacted at inahurrycoffee@gmail.com or 816-977-9434 with any questions or to place an order. All payments are made via PayPal and are sent to inahurrycoffee@gmail.com Please also give a like to my page on Facebook, Independent Kat's Coffee Representative, Jordan Gallacher, to find out any news about products or any specials that are going on!

Thanks,
Jordan Gallacher

Butterfly Knitting

Looking for an awesome birthday or Christmas gift? Maybe you have a new baby coming? Here's the lady to call. Becky and her sidekick Jake can hook you right up. Give her a shout-out today!

Becky Frankeberger

Butterfly Knitting
Ponchos
Afghans

Shawls
Custom Knitting

360-426-8389

becky@butterflyknitting.com

An added comment from Leonore Dvorkin: For those readers who cannot see Becky's website and her products, I can assure you that they are flat-out gorgeous and they appear to be of the highest quality. She is very talented indeed!

Hi, are you a music collector? Do you still have a place in your heart for cassettes?

I have several cassette holders filled with cassettes of all sorts of awesome music. Classic Rock, and more from Decades going back to the 70's and before. If you're interested in doing some negotiation, give me a shout. Shoot an email to patty.volunteer1@gmail.com and put Flash Back Cassettes in the subject line and I'll write you back with more information.

Games Galore and More.

Want to make new friends? Want to participate in fun and challenging games? Then join Games Galore and More.

GGM is a Voice Chat site where people talk to each other in real time. This site and its rooms are for everyone who is interested in interacting with a variety of people in a friendly environment. We offer activities and events of interest to the blind community. Everyone is welcome.

You can join our site at no cost. All you need is a headset to fully participate. Once you have signed up and received your username and password, you can chat with people from around the world and participate in games, seminars, and presentations on a variety of topics. To register with Games Galore and More, go to: www.gamesgaloreandmore.com

Enter on the Join our Site link, and follow the prompts.

If you have any issues or questions, please feel free to write James Gagnier or Shelley Gagnier at:

james@jgagnier.com Or shelley@jgagnier.com

Patty here to say that I was on a show with the fine folks at Games and Galore, and they were awesome hosts. If you missed that event, contact the site owners James and Shelly to see if it was archived. Their games are lots of fun, challenging, and at times rather educational.



The Orchid Keeper.

A short novel, by Jennifer Deese has been called inspirational fantasy. Born and raised in the Northeast United States. Miss Deese developed a deep love for books at a very young age. As she grew older, she knew her place in the world was in writing. After beating her own addictions years ago, she began to take steps to make that dream come true.

The Orchid Keeper takes us along on a fantastical, yet difficult journey, of an addict and alcoholic named Cora. In a fast downwards spiral and drowning in denial and projection Cora gets an amazing, and wondrous opportunity to change the path she is on. With the aid of Sol, an orchid keeper of Osipia, will she be able to defeat her demons?

Miss Deese is currently working on another book in The Osipian Chronicles, called The Fading Light. In this second book, we will once again see the effects of addiction; this time on a race of beings from another world. You can follow her progress on any of the sites listed below.

Jennifer has also had a horror short story published in an anthology, The December Awethology: Dark Volume. Her story, Jingle Jars, is featured on the cover. In this story Karma takes its toll on a fellow for whom payback is way overdue. A demon is the hero of this story, and when you read it, you will surely understand why.

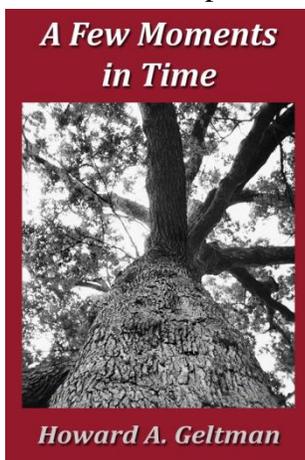
Deese is always open to interaction with her readers, so feel free to follow her or contact her, via the site's below, with questions about her writing, her characters, and the world she has created.

<http://www.amazon.com/Jennifer-Deese/e/B00N2URD14>

A Few Moments in Time, by Howard A. Geltman

C 2011 / 231 pages / in e-book and print on Amazon and other online sites

To read a sample and/or to order, go to: <http://www.dvorkin.com/howardgeltman/>



Summary:

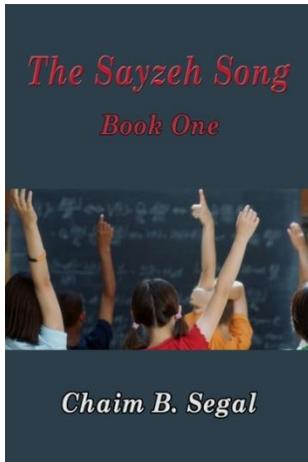
A Few Moments in Time is a wistful, emotion-filled memoir of a boyhood and adolescence spent at a Connecticut school for the blind in the 1960s and early '70s. The author provides us with a detailed picture of his youthful past, complete with pains and pranks, and then a snapshot of his impressive achievements in adulthood. Honest, funny, informative, and often deeply moving, this is a tale of the triumph of determination over disability. The striking cover photo was taken by a blind student, Matt Langer.

Review quotes: "Howard Geltman allows the reader deep into his soul. He shows us that no matter how difficult the road may be, there is always hope." "Howard captures a piece of precious time and has told it so well that I felt I was there." "This special memoir glows with warmth, affection, and compassion."

For another excellent book about life at a school for the blind, see *My Home Away from Home*, by Robert Branco. Details: <http://www.dvorkin.com/robertbranco/>

The Sayzeh Song, by Chaim B. Segal

(Book One of five planned volumes.)



Here, the author traces his life from preschool to 7th grade.

The narrative is dominated by the Jewish religion; music performed and listened to, schooling and hard life lessons, and often difficult family dynamics.

Mr. Segal proves himself an astute and very feeling observer: of the family's progression from more moderate Judaism to Orthodoxy, of how his father's frustration was probably linked to the sometimes severe corporal punishment he meted out, of how one moment's carelessness can end with a beloved pet's death, and much more.

Growing up in Ohio, the blind author had painful and confusing introductions to religious prejudice, poor race relations, and drug problems. The Holocaust haunted his dreams. Yet he managed to find joy in choral singing, piano lessons, recorded music, the family's pets, and good meals and good times with family members and friends.

What is missing from the story is any shred of self-pity. The author's obvious resilience and his capacity for forgiveness are models for us all.

Through his writing of *The Sayzeh Song*, Chaim Segal hopes to promote increased understanding concerning cultural diversity.

More details and text preview: <http://www.dvorkin.com/chaimsegal/>

Red Eyes

A novel by Gary H. Hensley, C 2015

In e-book and print on Amazon and other online buying sites.

Set primarily in Tennessee and Virginia from 1924 to 1976, this is the adventure-filled life story of Jim Taylor: lawman, lover, family man, churchgoer—and murderer.

After Jim's sister Annie is raped and murdered at the age of 13, he becomes obsessed with finding her killer and meting out "payback." The story of that pursuit, Jim's revenge, and the stunning surprise ending of the book make up the central story.

Details, cover photo, sample text, and buying links: www.dvorkin.com/garyhensley/

The Blind Post news

From and for the blind

What can be published in the Blind Post News. New and used. Wanted and to Give away any Services and training. Announcements. Business and job opportunities.

Want to subscribe? Send Lori AKA Food Lady a message with your name and email address to: foodlady@theblindpost.com

Read the news at
<http://www.theblindpost.com/>

Books by Abbie Johnson Taylor

For detailed descriptions, excerpts, and ordering information, visit <http://www.abbiejohntaylor.com>

We Shall Overcome. Lisa, visually impaired, is afraid of policemen because of an incident that happened to her brother years earlier. When she meets John, a bicycle patrol officer, she must re-evaluate her apprehension.

How to Build a Better Mousetrap: Recollections and Reflections of a Family Caregiver. The poems in this collection were mostly inspired by the author's experiences while caring for her late husband, totally blind and partially paralyzed by two strokes.

That's Life: New and Selected Poems. In this book, the author gives advice to teenagers, shares more memories of her younger years, and touches on other life-changing events, including her wedding and her late husband's death.

All three books are available on Bookshare, and you can download a recording of 'That's Life,' in mp3 format from the author's site.

For those of you who have been waiting and waiting, it's finally here! Meagan Green's

First album is out! Many people who have listened to it already have really enjoyed it, so check out the samples at; <http://www.musicspring.net>

The album is called, The Flow of Your Blood.

Eight of the songs are originals by Meagan herself, including the title cut which is a favorite of most who have heard the album. There is one well known hymn with a great arrangement by Chris Belle of Affordable

Studio Services, Meagan's producer. The other song is written by her dear friend Stephe Belle, Chris's wife and co-owner of the studio. You can either get a CD in the mail or download it on the computer. The cost for a download of the entire album is \$13. If you'd like to download by the song, they are \$1.50 each. You will be taken to paypal through my shopping cart.

Or you can enter the following email address;

mgreen@wvi.com

For a CD hard copy the cost is \$15 which includes shipping.
Send check or money order to:

Meagan Green
1410 Westfall Place
Stayton, Oregon 97383
Enjoy!MeaganGreen

The Blind Perspective

For a fun-filled, informative online magazine, check out The Blind Perspective:
<http://www.theblindperspective.com>

Unity Church of the Tri-Cities

423 W. Walnut St., Johnson City, TN
423-975-9159 /
www.unitytricity.org

Sunday service at 11:00 a.m.

All are welcome at Unity Church of the Tri-Cities, where you will find an atmosphere of love, acceptance, and empowerment. is a Christ-based teaching that emphasizes spirituality over religion as we embrace our own spiritual growth and development. We strive to apply Universal Truth Principles to improve our own life experience as well as to bless our planet and all humankind through selfless service.

7 Administrative Details

Advertising in or subscribing to The Neighborhood News! Cost is now \$15.00 per year for an advertisement with a 200-word limit with or without photo. One time ads can be gotten for the price of \$5.00

All submissions must be sent in by the 30TH of each month without fail. The email address to send subscription requests, advertising, literary submissions, or PayPal Payments to is:
patty.volunteer1@gmail.com

To place your Ad, please send your information including contact info such as email address, phone or website. (One link per Ad) Font & Size: - Times New Roman, size 12 and a 200-word limit with or without a photo.

Payments may be sent to me via PayPal or if you like you may email me to find out how to send a money order.

We are currently looking for literary submissions. We do not charge for literary submissions. If your submission is going to need editing you may contact *Claire Plaisted at the below link*

plaistedpublishinghouse@gmail.com Literary Submissions can be short stories, narratives, or poems. They're not to exceed 2000-word count.

*** I'm making a 2016 Directory Please send the info listed to join this directory!

This directory is designed so that all wishing to do so can reach out and network with others. Please write back with the following information. # indicates Optional * Indicates required to receive or continue Receiving. All Optional info will be shared if reader gives permission.

First and last name
Subscription Email
*Advertiser (Yes No)
Secondary Email (Share or Private)
Social Media (Share or Private)
Phone (Share or Private)

Thanks so much and have a great day. I'll let you know when the directory becomes available. If you'd like to have an ad in the directory such as are posted in Products and Services please send \$5.00 via PayPal

Follow Newsletter Guidelines when submitting Directory Ad

Thank you for your business.
Patty L. Fletcher

8. Author's Corner

This month I'd like to share with you something I wrote and submitted to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS in honor of their recognition of Disability Inclusion. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.

disABILITY Inclusion In a Big Way
by,

Patty L. Fletcher
July 7 2016

Legal Notes

THE SEEING EYE® and SEEING EYE® are registered trademarks of The Seeing Eye, Inc. See: www.SeeingEye.org
CONTACT-CONCERN of Northeast Tennessee, Inc. is a phone help line I&R (Information and Referral) Center. See: www.CONTACTCONCERN.org

When I got the below email this morning, I was flooded with memories. I have to admit that other than continuously working toward getting back into service I hadn't really given much

thought to the service I'd already done. I'd done no more than what was necessary concerning providing information, so when this came to me I realized I hadn't ever really written much about that time in my life.

This was before Campbell. What I've labeled, 'B/C'

You see in 2006 I began volunteering for a nonprofit organization known as, CONTACTCONCERN of Northeast TN INC

I was a phone shift operator and it suited me fine. I loved the work, and in fact over that first year or so I did quite a lot of it. Sometimes, I would do as many as 25 shifts a month. I had nothing better to do, not on any level as what the volunteer work allowed me to do, I loved the education it was giving me, and at the end of my first year there I began to seriously desire employment there.

I voiced that out loud one day, and was dismayed at the lack of interest shown concerning my suggestion that I might like to one day 'work' there.

As time went along I came to learn of there being a position open in our office. This came about quite by accident, and what came about as a result of it is something I have never written of much until now.

I share it, because it will lead straight into my time in service.

FYI and Lessons Learned

I was working a shift from home one evening, and so far it had been quiet. I'd caught up on all Reassurance Calls, made the Reminder calls to the volunteers on duty the next day, and was looking over what were considered the '*Most Used Referrals*' in the bunch. I'd decided it was time to get them filed on index cards and into a card holder. Since I still did not have a computer, and was doing everything via Braille, I had to stay on top of the paper work.

"At least I actually have a Braille now," I thought as I readied myself to get to work.

At first I'd been taking notes with a slate and stylus and then transcribing everything to cassette. Now I was able to keep everything written out correctly and go into the office a couple of months to meet with their VISTA Worker so I could dictate everything to her and she could put the information onto a case report. Sometimes I felt bad for having to have this much help doing the necessary paper work, but when I voiced concerns

Tonya always said, "Look, it takes a lot less time from my day to help you with paper work than it does for me to have to work all these shifts." She'd smiled when she'd said it. I didn't need to see to know it. I could hear it in her voice. She added, "You give me time off on the week-ends, and Lynn too. Do you know how long it has been since I've had two Sundays in a row off? Completely off, so that I did not have to check a voice mail, make a call or worry about something? I appreciate you."

I remember feeling sad that day because I knew she would soon be going to be with her husband in South Carolina, and we'd all have to help a bit more when she was gone.

Just as I was organizing my table to get to work, the phone had rang. "2-1-1 Contact Concern, how may I help you?" I answered/asked into the phone.

Now, I pride myself in being able to mask my true emotions on the phone. I have always felt I was fabulous at sounding upbeat even when I am really not. This night friends and neighbors, I think I should've won an award.

The voice on the other end of the phone asked, "Is the job you all are advertising in the paper still open?" At that moment it dawned on me that Tonya would be replaced, and that I'd more than made it clear that I wanted to work for them. Had even spoken with our supervisor about what would be necessary to make that happen and what Vocational Rehabilitation Services For the Blind would do.

He had blown me off, and now here was someone calling about an ad I took a deep calming breath.

"You know? I believe that post has been filled. Let me take your name and number, and I'll have someone contact you should it still be available."

She thanked me and gave her info. I never wrote the first digit. When I hung up it took all of my restraint to not phone Lynn and give him a firm piece of my mind, with an extra helping for good measure. However, what I did turned out to work much better.

That night I worked doubly hard at making sure all my paper work was done and correct.

Then I sat down with a tape recording and dictated all of it onto a cassette and readied it and everything else to go out the next day. I even made certain to put my cane in its place before going to bed. I did not want any mistakes the next day.

Bright and early the next morning I got up, got myself dressed, and went out to wait on the van. When it arrived I paid the driver and was off. Soon we'd arrived at the church where our office was housed, and I was on my way...

I entered the office and called out cheerily, "Good morning! How is everyone? I got cases!"

It was nearing the end of the month so the timing couldn't have been more perfect. Pretty soon I was surprising Tonya with a little pocket folder with a cassette in it and a print copy of the shifts I'd selected for the upcoming month. She was a bit taken aback with my completely organized information, and I said, "If it's alright with you, I'll start doing this every month. I just spoke with the scheduler last night, picked these shifts, and got Donnie to write them down for me. No big deal."

She loved it and we chatted and at one point Lynn said, "I still have to get my cases in." I laughed.

"Pretty bad when the blind volunteer has hers turned in before the supervisor with full sight." We all laughed, and then I said, "So, y'all find anyone to fill Tonya's position you have advertised in the paper?" The room fell silent. I swear in the phone room the phone stopped ringing. I continued, "When were you going to tell me you were going to hire someone to replace her?"

"Well, we just put the ad in the other day." Lynn said in a strangled voice. It was more than evident he'd not meant for me to know of it.

"Well, with the right equipment, and some training I could do this work. Furthermore I spoke with you about this, and what VR would do for me."

He made some noises about how we'd have to talk about it and all kinds of excuses as to what he figured would be a problem, and started to excuse himself.

I said very little about it, and soon was calling the van services back to go home. To say I was upset, and angry all at the same moment was an understatement. I went home and stewed about it all night. I talked to one or two friends about it. They encouraged me to speak my piece, and let

those people know if I wasn't worth hiring and paying, I wasn't good enough to volunteer for them either. I have to admit it sounded like something I'd talk about doing.

"If it were me I'd..." How many times had I said that? Well... I decided that early morning.

The next day I went back to the office, when they asked me why I was back.

"I got to talk to someone about the schedule. Turns out some friends of mine from North Carolina have invited me to their house. I'm going to need to remove myself.

"From all of them?" Tonya asked. She sounded a bit more than taken aback at that. "You're on a lot of shifts."

I sighed, "Well, I'm sure you'll figure it out. After all you worked a lot of Sundays before me. I know y'all are both used to it." I included Lynn, as he'd just come into the room. I had their attention now, and the game was afoot.

"When did they invite you?" Lynn asked curiously. Well I'd known he was no dummy. In fact had been banking on it.

"A day or two ago. Just got round to calling her back last night. Turns out her husband has a couple days off, and so if I want a ride I got to take it. I'm sure you all will do OK. I mean it's not like the organization didn't run without me here before I came." I shrugged my shoulders, as if it were no big deal. "I'll be back in a month."

"A month?" Tonya asked.

"Yeah, I figure you can do two weekends and Lynn can do too. You know? The good old days." I picked up my things to go. I'd called a friend to come and pick me up and he was outside. I smiled and waved as I was leaving. "Maybe you'll hire someone while I'm gone. You can break 'em in right."

I was nearly laughing out loud as I walked down the steps with my cane thumping just a bit louder than necessary as I went.

Soon I was home, and packing for my trip. As I did I giggled and talked with my dog Rowdy about it. I told him how soon Mommy would have a job and he could spend his remaining years eating better food, and having better vet care. I settled Celine with instructions for Donnie and what she could and could not have, and the next day my friends were there to pick us up. I was taking Rowdy with me, and was to be quite honest glad for the prospect of some R&R time.

I would remain in North Carolina for three weeks, and I was determined to enjoy myself. I took lots of books, my Braille and paper, and planned to read, journal and sleep. We were going to visit their church, and DeAdra and I were going to take Rowdy on awesome sniff fests.

I did enjoy my time there, but after a while I have to admit, I missed my work. I actually cheated and called one of the Reassurance Clients who is a friend of mine, just to check and make sure she was getting her calls. To as she said, '*Check on my work*' She knew what time it was. I didn't share anything with her I should not, but she knew I'd been going to ask about working there, and she knew I'd taken over twenty shifts that month and that I was now not there. She and her husband had run a business and I was certain there was a secret part of her that liked my method.

Near the end of my second week, my supervisor happened to call while we were in town. You see I had no cell service unless we were in town, and I did not give him my friend's home

number. He was talking with me saying how he just wanted to “Check on me and see if I were having a good time.”

I told him of all the things we’d been doing and I included that I’d spoken with a few people about available work in the area, and that my friend just happened to own rental property. I ended that with, “Well, gotta go we’re here at the store.” I hung up before he could reply properly.

“Well...Have a great time...” I laughed, “They’re missing me. Let’em.”

I went about my way, and when I got home and settled back in I called in to see what shifts might be open, and to see how glad they were to see I was back.

First thing I did was to not take more than a week’s worth of shifts. When Tonya asked if I wanted more I said, “No, think I’ll wait because I don’t know what else I might want to do.” When she and I were done she said Lynn wanted to speak to me. I took a breath and said, “OK put him on.” I took another deep breath as I waited. Like I say, he’s no dummy and I knew he was on to me. I also knew that they’d not hired anyone for that position. The ad wasn’t running anymore.

“Hi! How was your trip?”

I sat filling him in on my trip, and finally ended with, “Found some possibility for work too. My friend has a house coming open end of the month, who knows...?” I trailed off.

“You know? We missed you when you were gone?” Lynn ventured.

“AWW you’re nice.” I said, laughing to myself. We went round like that for a while, and finally he asked, “So, how can we get and keep you?” I laughed,

“Hire me.” I was ready, and when he spoke about money issues and how hard it would be to pay me, and that Tonya had been a VISTA with them I launched right back with, “I can apply for VISTA and since you all already have a toe in, we can go around a few things and I can come right in.”

I had done a lot of research and spoken with several people, including Tonya and my VR worker. A week later I hosted Lynn and my VR worker at my home, and soon it began.

Before I go any further I want to assure you that the biggest reason for hesitation concerning the powers that were at Contact Concern at that time was simply “Would I be able to keep up with the demands of the job.” It was not in my mind an unreasonable concern. These people had never before worked directly with a blind person. I was never made to feel unwanted or unwelcome. I was never made to feel used etc.

I did ‘Volunteer’ On my own.

It took some doing but I was able to have the wondrous pleasure of serving an entire year as a VISTA and I absolutely loved everything about it. I gained valuable experience that first year truly working in an office and being responsible for lots of things, that I could not have gotten anywhere else in the world.

I worked phone shifts, devised a call back system that would assist us with quality control designed to give feedback as to the effectiveness of the I&R (Information and Referral) system we had in place.

I helped gather data that would one day be used to help develop newer programs to help those low income persons with dental needs, and I spent many long hours with my then supervisor Lynn Sorrell attending information fairs and presentations which I soon learned to handle much of on my own.

That year I served as a VISTA enabled me to become more marketable than ever before in my life, and it enabled me to help others in ways I never knew I could.

When I was younger I'd been dismayed to learn a blind person could not serve in the military. I'd so very badly wanted to serve my country. Now serving as a VISTA I was getting my chance.

It was not an easy road. Let me tell you. This is not one of those fairy tale deals where the "Blind person swoops in and saves the day with something akin to super powers" That stuff doesn't usually happen in that way.

The first thing I had to do was take a crash course in computers. I had to learn Windows, Word, EXCEL and JAWS as well. I took two and a half month's worth of classes four days a week at a live-in center. I took class by day, home work at night, and worked phone shifts while at home on the weekends. It was exhausting, exhilarating, and wonderful and I have to say I'd have done it for the entire year that way if I'd had to just to have had the awesome experiences that gave to me.

When the contract suddenly ended in 2008 due to funding issues I was devastated, but I did not give up. I continued to volunteer, and I continued to learn. I was hooked now, and I wasn't going anywhere.

It paid off for me, because in 2010 we had a bitter sweet happening. Our then Volunteer Coordinator died suddenly. I'd been volunteering to assist her, and in fact had taken her place a while during some knee surgery she'd recently had. When she died, the organization offered me the job, and I became their Volunteer Coordinator. I was proud to have the position, and loved every moment of the crazy long and sometimes Demanding work. I was out and about lots more than ever before, and I found I was facing more and more mobility challenges as well.

Finally in 2011 I realized I had to have a Guide Dog and took a month off to go to The Seeing Eye and there I got Campbell a big black Labrador who has stolen my heart, and for sure did 'Retrieve My Life' I returned to work with him in May of 2011 and continued with them until February of 2015 when I left to pursue a career in writing and take some time to heal from some physical and mental illness.

Now, I am well, and want very much to become a VISTA again. The things I learned while serving the first time were priceless. I learned about team work, about what it is to assist with running an organization, and I was given the privilege of beginning a program that has grown and evolved to the point that it has been adapted and is now used all across the state. I am proud to say I truly did make a difference as a VISTA all those years ago, and desire to do it again.

The ways in which CNCS worked with me as a disabled person, and maintained good contact even after I became hired was fabulous. When I went to Atlanta for my training they made me feel right at home, and although I attended the training with a partner I found that I was able to do many activities on my own, with no help from anyone because there were people in the know everywhere I went. To say I had a fabulous experience working as a VISTA with CNCS would not do it justice.

I highly recommend them to everyone. If you have the desire to serve, they have the desire to help you make it happen.

I hope you'll read the information below, and if you are so moved to, sign up today!

If you've had an experience of your own, share it with us. We want to know.

Patty L. Fletcher
Author, Motivational Speaker, and Nonprofit Consultant

Learn about disability inclusion resources available from CNCS

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



Dear Friend in Service,

This month the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) will focus much of its storytelling on how national service strives to engage all people as community assets and resources regardless of their disabilities.

We will feature stories on the National Service Blog of individuals who have proven that their disability hasn't stopped their desire to serve and organizations who have effectively engaged people with disabilities as both volunteers and employees. We will share video profiles, tools and resources, and tips for effective practice through our social media channels.

Some of what we will highlight includes:

[Modern Disability 101](#)

[Creating a Welcoming Environment](#)

[Why People with Disabilities Benefit Your Program](#)

[Making Reasonable Accommodations](#)

[Designing Your Own Disability Engagement Plan](#)

[25 Tips for Facilitating Disability Inclusion in Your Program](#)

We encourage you to retweet and share our content through your own social media using #Service4All. And share your stories with us at engagement@cns.gov.

If you have any questions specifically about disability inclusion, please send them to disability@cns.gov.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Taylor

Rhonda Taylor
Director, Partnerships and Program Engagement
Office of External Affairs
Corporation for National and Community Service

9. Twilight Bark

This month I have no comments from readers. We'd truly love your feedback. Maybe you've a story or an experience to share. A recipe or a tip. Whatever it is we would love to hear from you. Please? Write to us any time. Remember, make sure to let us know if you want to be included in the Twilight Bark or if you would like for your comments to remain in the dog house with me.

I thank you for your patience as I have been struggling with many technical trials, and as always thanks for reading, and come back next month to find out what's happening in The Neighborhood News.

10. Wrap Up and Notes From the Editor

I will leave you with a prayer, these short affirmations, and then turn it over to my editor and friend Claire Plaisted.

May you never thirst,

Except it be for knowledge.
May you never hunger.
Except it be for truth
And may the Blessings of the Goddess
Be with you always!

Every Day is Earth Day! Love Your Mother!
Goddess Blessings!
Live Well - Laugh Often - Love Much
GrannyMoon Creator of the Weekly Feast

Affirmations

The world is not perfect, so I need not be perfect.

If you don't want people to know how you are, don't be that way.

If you always do as you've done, you'll always have as you've had.

Today is yesterday's tomorrow and tomorrow is another day.

And my personal favorite...

“Take a chance. There’s a fifty percent chance you’ll be right.”

Thanks Drew, I’m doing it!

###Thank you Patty

What to say for the past two months. I have been busy with two clients. Catherine Schythe who has written part one of a memoir based on her husband’s early life. ‘The time of the Iron Fist.’
<https://www.amazon.com/Time-Iron-Fist-Part-One-ebook/dp/B01FUCK28M>

It is horrific when you realise it is true and actually happened. We all read about things like this in fiction and see them at the movies. The truth though is a harsh reality. If you wish to know more about Catherine you can find her interview on my blog.

<https://plaistedpublishinghouse.wordpress.com/testimonial/catherine-schythe/>

My other client is J C Christian. With her book ‘Reaching for the Light, An Incest Survivors Story.’ J C is a stunningly wonderful woman who has defied the odds and survived Incest. Her memoirs are told candidly via her therapy. The truth will make you cry, the horror of what parents can do to a child and how they push through to survive with nobody to turn to. This woman is strong, she is beautiful, insightful and her story though heart-breaking has a wonderful ending where you will laugh and smile. Today J C Christian is helping other survivors with her work and her book. It is a must read. You can find her book here.

<https://www.amazon.com/Reaching-Light-Survivors-Sisterhood-Survival-ebook/dp/B01HKIWF52/>

If you wish to learn more you can read her interview on my blog.

<https://plaistedpublishinghouse.wordpress.com/2016/07/04/debut-author-j-c-christian/>

My Indie Publishing News is out and can be found on my blog to download. It is in PDF, Powerpoint and Screen Reader. If you wish to sign up then please follow the sign up link to the appropriate group so you receive the correct type of file.

<https://plaistedpublishinghouse.wordpress.com/newsletters/>

If you are an Indie Author or Small Business who helps Authors, you can receive FREE Marketing if you have signed up. The idea is to send the newsletter out and ask you to forward it to your readers, businesses and newsletter groups. This can not only introduce them to your latest work, it can also introduce them to a new author.

Thanks and enjoy the newsletter ☺